



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DATE: July 2, 2003

TO: Deans and Directors

FROM: Catherine Smith, Supervisor
Program Preparation and Continuing Education Unit
Office of Professional Preparation Services

SUBJECT: Invitation to NCLB Meeting

All teacher preparation institutions are invited to send representation to a meeting to discuss the implications of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation on practicing teachers, teacher candidates, and teacher preparation programs. The meeting will be held on July 22 in the John A. Hannah Building, 608 West Allegan Street, in downtown Lansing, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with coffee service at 9:30 a.m.

Our purpose is to share current and accurate information on NCLB as it relates to the State's definition of "highly qualified" teachers and to answer questions and concerns you may have. Since the legislation focuses on "English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography," you may want to consider bringing representation from these disciplines. We would like to craft a position for the State on the group codes -- specifically science (general and integrated), language arts, and social studies and to consider the implications for teacher preparation institutions.

Following a break for lunch (the John A. Hannah cafeteria is a close and inexpensive choice), you are also invited to participate in an initial dialogue on the formulation of public policy related to teacher preparation. You are welcome to add to the following topics:

- How can we inform policy makers about the program changes that have been made in teacher preparation programs over the last five years? (Specialty program standards, intensive review process, many well-structured field experiences, cultural and ethnic awareness, experience with special education students, collaborative projects with K-12 schools, brain-compatible learning, authentic assessment, understanding of learning styles, incorporation of technological tools, etc.)
- How can we utilize current research to propose changes in the administrative rules, to identify best practices for teaching, and to demonstrate how our institutions are modeling these practices for teacher candidates?
- How can Michigan institutions collaborate to develop criteria for, and offer, high-quality online instruction supported by supervised field experiences?
- How can Michigan institutions be proactive in communicating innovations and strengths, instead of reactive, as new policy (such as HB 4716) is created?

Please confirm by **Tuesday, July 15**, by contacting Elsie Wiltse at 517-241-3960 or wiltsee@michigan.gov with the names of the people who will be attending from your institution. Parking is available in public lots by the Library of Michigan (enter off of Kalamazoo Street) or by Constitution Hall (enter off of Allegan Street). Because of security precautions, it is necessary to enter the John A. Hannah Building through the inside north courtyard (by the fountain). Be prepared to show picture ID to the security personnel who will call our office for an escort to the conference room. A map of Lansing may be accessed on the web: <http://www.lansing.org/>.

We hope you will be able to share your wisdom and your concerns.

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